

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /066 W
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R 020955Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS DAKAR 3009

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MARR, MR, SG

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS SENEGAL

1. SUMMARY: SECURITY CONCERNS WERE PROMINENT THEME OF APRIL
24-27 DAKAR VISIT BY MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO
REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH ZAIRE
MANIFESTED BY FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. MAURITANIAN EXPRESSED
BELIEF POLISARIO PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED AND GOOD RELATIONS
EVENTUALLY RESTORED WITH ALGERIA. JOINT COMMUNIQUE WARNED OF
"HEGEMONIC WARS" IN AFRICA. PROVOCATIVE QUESTION BY JOURNALIST
LED SENEGALESE TO ISSUE STATEMENT CLARIFYING THAT THERE WAS
NO PROBLEM BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL, AND EXPLAINING
THAT LATTER'S REINFORCEMENT OF TROOPS ON ITS NORTHERN BORDER
REFLECTED VIEW THAT IF MAURITANIA WERE ENDANGERED, SENEGAL
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WOULD ALSO BE. SENEGAL-MOROCCO TIES WERE EMPHASIZED BY APRIL
27 DEDICATION OF DIRECT UNDERSEA CABLE LINK. END SUMMARY.

2. MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAMD OULD MOUKNASS MADE
OFFICIAL VISIT TO SENEGAL APRIL 24-27. HE WAS RECEIVED BY
PRESIDENT SENGHOR (TO WHOM HE DELIVERED "MESSAGE OF AMITY,
FRATERNITY AND SOLIDARITY" FROM PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH),

PRIME MINISTER DIOUF, AND FOREIGN MINISTER SECK.

3. PRESS TREATED VISIT AS FOLLOW-UP TO FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE "WHOSE FAVORABLE EXHOS WENT BEYOND THE RIVER" INTO MAURITANIA. IN ARRIVAL REMARKS, NOUKNASS SAID "WE TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE SUCCESS OF THAT CONFERENCE." HE REMARKED THAT "THESE SECURITY PROBLEMS INTEREST THE ENSEMBLE OF WEST AFRICAN STATES. AND IN MAURITANIA WE HAVE SPECIFIC SECURITY PROBLEMS; THAT IS WHY WE HAVE BEEN VERY ATTENTIVE TO WHAT HAPPENED IN DAKAR DURING THE FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT." HE SAID TALKS IN DAKAR WOULD CONSIDER WAYS OF EXTENDING "EXCELLENT" EXISTING BILATERAL COOPERATION.

4. IN DINNER TOAST, SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT DOZEN BILATERAL ACCORDS HAD BEEN SIGNED AND APPEALED FOR ALL BROTHER COUNTRIES TO WORK FOR PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. DAKAR LE SOLEIL REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS OF MOUKNASS PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY SPOKE OF DANGER POSED TO MAURITANIAN SECURITY BY "BANDS OF MERCENAIRES ARMED BY ALGERIA" HOWEVER, HE SAID MAURITANIA EXPECTED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM BY DIALOGUE AND, IN ONE, FIVE OR TEN YEARS, WOULD HAVE FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. CALLING CLOSE TIES TO MOROCCO "FINAL AND IRREVERSIBLE," MOUKNASS SUGGESTED RE-LAUNCHING "GRAND MAGHREB" IDEA. HE AFFIRMED "SYMPATHY" WITH WHICH MAURITANIA HAD FOLLOWED DAKAR SUMMIT, WHERE HE SAID "CHIEFS OF STATE APPLIED THEMSELVES TO REINFORCING THE CLIMATE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES OF THE REGION AND MANIFESTED

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THEIR SOLIDARITY TO ZAIRE," ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS.

6. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, MINISTERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER "DANGER MENACING AFRICA, BECAUSE IT RISKS...KNOWING HEGEMONIC WARS WHICH HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH HARM IN ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST." THEY CALLED FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO ENTER DIALOGUE WITH SWAPO, "REITERATED THEIR WILL TO WORK FOR UNITY" OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS, AND REAFFIRMED THEIR FAITH IN OMVS, CEAO AND ECOWAS. PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST MUST BE FOUNDED ON RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS, RETREAT OF ISRAEL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND GUARANTEE OF THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES. MINISTERS ENDORSED RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE.

7. SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER SECK ISSUED STATEMENT APRIL 28 CONCERNING QUERY OF MOUKNASS BY JOURNALIST AS TO WHETHER MAURITANIA PLANNED TO REINFORCE ITS TROOPS ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER SINCE SENEGAL HAD STRENGTHENED ITS NORTHERN DEFENSES. SECK NOTED THAT QUESTION INSINUATED THERE WOULD BE

BILATERAL PROBLEMS SINCE THEIR TROOPS WOULD BE FACE TO FACE. HE EMPHASIZED THERE WAS "NO PROBLEM" BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO SENGHOR'S APRIL 4 DECLARATION (DAKAR 2398), SECK SAID THAT "THE REINFORCEMENT OF TROOPS ON THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FRONTIERS OF SENEGAL INDICATED THE TWO DIRECTIONS FROM WHICH DANGER COULD COME, FOR IF MAURITANIA WERE IN DANGER, SENEGAL WOULD BE EQUALLY ENDANGERED AND, IN THAT CASE, OBVIOUSLY, THEIR ACTIONS COULD BE COMBINED."

8. SENEGALESE LINKS TO MOROCCO HAVE ALSO BEEN PROMINENT TOPIC WITH DEDICATION APRIL 27 OF DAKAR-CASABLANCA UNDERSEA CABLE BY PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENGHOR AND KING HASSAN. AGGREY

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